

THE HALF-BREED

The trail blazers to the West were the scouts of conquest who left their radical problems for civilization in the succeeding generations to solve. Delmar Sparinaw, whose white father had been driven from the range, was taken as a youth from the home of his Apache mother in the Southwest and educated in the East through secret influences. Returning with college culture to his birthplace as an influential cattle buyer, Delmar strives to meet the problem of the birth barrier raised against him by Judge Huntington, the law of the small border town and father of Evelyn Huntington, the girl he loves.

Judge Huntington openly favors Ross Kennion who has struck oil on the land granted to Delmar's mother but forfeited by her because of her ignorance of tax laws. Kennion, however, is prevented from becoming an avowed rival of Delmar because he is still bound in marriage to Maude Kennion who has deserted him and their little son, Dick Kennion, to go on the stage. Evelyn is drawn to Kennion because she loves his fatherless son while Delmar's impassioned wooing strongly appeals to her youthful love of romance.

The conflict between Delmar and Kennion is heightened by the fact that the latter is preparing to sell the land to a large oil syndicate which will mean the eviction of Delmar's mother from her home. And Delmar's position is made more difficult by the suspected activities of his half-brother, The Snake, in a dangerous band of cattle rustlers.

Judge Huntington warns Evelyn that if she ever arouses the primitive savagery in Delmar he will kill her. Failing in this to frighten his daughter, he sends her away to school where she becomes a classmate of Dolly Pardeau, a sophisticated daughter of the newly rich. At the vacation, Evelyn goes with Dolly to the San Francisco hotel owned by Ned Greenwood. There they find Kennion negotiating the deal for his oil lands.

Delmar makes an appeal to Judge Huntington to save his mother's

home. Coldly refused by the judge, Delmar follows the warpath to San Francisco.

Dolly too takes a hand and makes Delmar promise never to see Evelyn again. But in the turbulent interview, her fighting spirit appeals to him and Dolly, in turn, feels his fascinating power.

Back in the little border town in the Southwest, Delmar makes another effort in the open to save his mother's home. He appeals to Ross when the transfer of the oil lands are being made to Greenwood, representative of the oil syndicate. Kennion tells him it is impossible.

Lashed by the Indian heritage, revenge, Delmar turns to the cattle rustlers for aid. He asks them to get the deeds from Greenwood by their own methods, also the ring that Greenwood is wearing--the ring which had bound Delmar's father and mother's common law marriage. The ring, with the other Spavinaw possessions had been left to Pardeau at whose hotel Spavinaw had lived after returning from his westward quest.

The rustlers waylay Greenwood and Kennion, the former being killed from ambush. Kennion is suspected by the Sheriff and Evelyn goes to Kennion's cabin to warn him. There Delmar finds her with Little Pal who is ill. Evelyn recognizes Greenwood's ring on Delmar's finger and accuses him of the murder. Delmar, realizing that the rustlers have made him an outlaw like themselves, plans to steal Kennion's cattle to collect his mother's debt for the loss of her land and also take Evelyn as revenge on the judge.

In a fit of savage passion, however, when she finds the stolen deeds in his pocket, he chokes her. Little Pal, attracted by the cries of the girl, steals out of bed in an adjoining room and with a rifle hanging on the wall fires a wild shot. Delmar, the Indian within him blazing, threatens to kill the child as the vision of his forefathers rises before his eyes. But the boy fights with such desperation that Delmar's other nature is appealed to and he spares the youngster. Then the surge of contrition forced him to his knees before Evelyn. At that moment, a signal from The Snake outside tells him of the approach of Kennion and he hurries to the rendezvous.



When the sheriff attempts to arrest Kennion the latter accuses Delmar. There is a counter accusation against Delmar and he, cornered, knocks the lamp from the table and with the aid of the rustlers escapes. But the sheriff knows the short cut to the Mexican border and there awaits Delmar who soon approaches at racing speed in a motor car. The sheriff wounds Delmar who drives blindly on until his car dashes from the road and into a tree.

There he is found by Dolly who has passed the night at the depot awaiting her folks whose train has been delayed by a freight wreck. Dolly, the girl who had taunted him, is deeply touched by Delmar's helplessness and offers her horses to him after dressing his wound. Then, answering the call of the wild, Dolly agrees to flee with him across the border out ahead of the stampede which the rustlers then are getting under its mad way.

There is a wild ride before the flying herd. As they near the border a freight train is bearing down upon them. They take the chance and clear the tracks just ahead of the engine which is their salvation because the train cuts off the escape of the members of the rustlers' band.

On the American side of the border Little Pal gained Evelyn for a mother. And in Mexico, a redemption comes to Delmar through love for the girl who came to him in the great moment of his life when everyone else was seeking his life.

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